



Mayor's Office, City of Houston

Office of International Affairs & Development

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Message from the Mayor

We are very pleased to announce the kick-off of the *Houston Student Ambassadors Program (HSAP)*, a program aimed at recruiting and rewarding distinguished high school students who have genuinely committed themselves towards strengthening the community as well as bettering the lives of others.



Bill White

With this program, we hope to encourage youth empowerment and provide these students an opportunity to explore and address social issues within a global context, giving these bright young minds a better understanding of our world beyond textbooks and the classroom. We are excited to share with you the HSAP kick-off and the many other international events in this month's edition of the *International Newsletter*.



Bill White, Mayor

Message from the Director

The bilateral relations and cooperation between Houston and other international cities continue to develop on a positive note. This month a total of 9 delegations will come to Houston for official visits.

At the Mayor's Office of International Affairs and Development, one of our primary goals is to make international firms and dignitaries feel welcome in Houston, which is the fundamental building block of an international city.



Helen T. Chang

"Living and working in the Energy City of Houston has been a wonderful experience and I have enjoyed every minute of it. Thank you for your assistance as a liaison between my company and the Mayor's Office, which help in making my job so pleasant."

Wayne Dai, President of the Opicoil Houston, Inc.

Helen T. Chang, Director of International Affairs & Development

August 2005 Highlights

“2005 Aichi Expo” Mission Results in Million Dollar Economic Impact

By Daniel R. Palomo

The Hon. Judge Robert Eckels led a business development mission to Japan this last July 27 – August 4. This mission was organized by the City of Houston Mayor’s Office and the Greater Houston Partnership. Participants included representatives from the Greater Houston Convention and Visitors Bureau, the Port of Houston Authority, the Houston Airport System and the Houston Pilots were led by. The mission – led by the First Lady of the State of Texas Anita Perry and Secretary of State Roger Williams – aimed to enhance business relations between the Texas delegation and their Japanese counterparts and to showcase Texas’ infrastructure and technology as well as its impact on the global economy as a way to encourage and attract foreign direct investment.

The itinerary included two of Japan’s most important financial centers: Tokyo and Nagoya. The nature of strong commercial ties between Houston and Tokyo is evident by Continental Airlines establishing its non-stop service between the two cities in 1998. While there, the delegation attended a briefing on

Did You Know?

The mission is expected to generate more than \$150 million in new business for Houston. Expected new growth includes a potential increase in air cargo trade with Japan which totaled \$313 million in 2004. Seaborne trade with Japan, which was valued at more than \$759.5 million in 2004, is also expected to increase. The mission helped further Houston’s position as a versatile and integrated destination in the international marketplace.

Special Thanks

Article submitted by Daniel R. Palomo, tourism marketing manager of the Greater Houston Convention & Visitors Bureau.

U.S.-Japan economic and political relations hosted by The Hon. Tom Schieffer, U.S. Ambassador to Japan. The delegation also attended business meetings with members of the Japan Federation of Economic Organizations and the Japan External Trade Organization. In Nagoya, the delegation actively participated at the U.S. Pavilion of the Aichi World Expo by hosting trade, tourism and business meetings, along with seminars and presentations that expanded the global presence of Texas.

Colombian / U.S. Roundtable Ponders Investment

By Robert Dahnke

On August 3 the President of Colombia, Alvaro Uribe, visited Houston to promote economic cooperation between the United States and Colombia. Officials from the U.S. Department of Commerce, the Colombian Government, as well as local companies such as Shell Oil participated in a roundtable discussion.

Colombia has a large amount of untapped natural resources; President Uribe hopes that investment from the U.S. will be mutually beneficial to the long term economic growth of both nations. The event was tied in with *International Business Matchmaking* and was held at the InterContinental Houston.



President Alvaro Uribe highlighted the recent reforms in Colombia.

Pakistan Independence Day Mela

By Aman Ullah Khan

Gathering more than 25,000 Pakistan Americans, Pakistan's Independence Day Mela 2005 was held at Sam Houston Race Park on August 13 to celebrate the 58th Independence Day of Pakistan. The surrounding floodlights of the park created a comfortable atmosphere for everyone to enjoy the celebration.

The event was organized by the Pakistan American Association of Texas. Among the politicians who addressed the audience were Congressmen Ted Poe, Al Green, and Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee.

Did You Know?



The crescent on the Emblem of Pakistan symbolizes the traditional symbols of Islam: the shield illustrates the four main crops of Pakistan, cotton, wheat, tea, and jute, the wreath is a reproduction of the floral designs used in traditional Mughal art, and the scroll, written in Urdu, quotes the nation's motto, "Faith, Unity, Discipline."

Source: www.infopak.gov

Special Thanks

Article submitted by Aman Ullah Khan with the Pakistani American Association of Texas.

Did You Know?

In July of 2005, the framework of Digital Olympics announced new projects including:

- The Intelligent Transportation Information System
- Citizen-centered, location-based, urban environment information services
- Personalized Life and Health e-Services
- Use of mobile broadband satellite systems for the Olympics
- TAS - Ticketless Access to facilities
- Virtual Athlete - Personalized 3D sport experiences on site and at home

Source: <http://www.ericsson.com>

2008 Olympic Brings Together Houston Experts and Beijing Officials

By David Chang

During mid-August, the City of Houston hosted a delegation from the Beijing Municipal Government Office of Informatization (BMGOI), a municipal governing body that is analogous to an Information-Technology department. Within the framework of the "Hi-Tech Partner-Cities" agreements that exists between Houston and Beijing, Richard Lewis, chief information officer of the City's IT Department conducted a briefing for the BMGOI delegation of senior management members. This briefing succeeded at its goal of giving the delegation a comprehensive look at the City's IT Department.

With the 2008 Olympics less than 3 years away, China, and especially Beijing, is looking to international expertise in the IT field such as can be gained from the City of Houston. This is as part of its overall effort to modernize the city's infrastructure and

prepare for the next Olympiad, which is being called the "Digital Olympics." This initiative seeks to form a flexible IT backbone that will support the immense logistical aspects of the Beijing Games.

Indonesia Marks its 60th Independence Anniversary

By Monica Faridi

Not long after the Tsunami disaster, the people of Indonesia were united for the 60th Year of the Independence Day of the Republic of Indonesia. On the evening of August 24 The Hon. Consul General Benny Permadi Suryawinata and his wife, Fanny Srikandini Suryawinata, hosted a reception commemorating the past, present, and future of Indonesia.

Indonesian music chimed on a collection of xylophones to the melody of the Indonesia Raya and the Star Spangled Banner. The event demonstrated the strengths and the united spirits of the Indonesians.



With a toast, the Councilmembers presented a proclamation from the City of Houston in honoring the Indonesian community and its 60 years of independence.

Upcoming Major Events

U.S. – Arab Economic Forum: Plan of Action

After 24 months of planning, 1,500 of the world's business leaders and political heavyweights from the America and Arab league will take center stage at the 2nd U.S.-Arab Economic Forum in Houston this month.



U.S.-Arab Economic Forum

September 14-16, 2005 | Houston, Texas

المنتدى الاقتصادي العربي الأمريكي

All gathered in Houston – home to the fifth-largest population of Arab decent in the United States and as well as a history of strong energy links to the Middle East and North Africa – on September 14-16 to address policy reform plans of improving living standards and education opportunity, empowering women and promoting better ties between the two societies through trade and economic collaboration under the theme of *One world. Two cultures. Endless possibilities.* Chairs of Boeing, Chevron Corporation, Cisco System, ConocoPhillips, ExxonMobil, Marathon Oil, PriceWaterhouseCoopers, the president of Shell Oil Company, the energy ministers of Saudi Arabia and Qatar, the president of M.D. Anderson Cancer Center and the director of BBC Global News as well as the secretary general of Arab League, the minister of state and Mayor Bill White are among the 90 featured speakers.

“The U.S.- Arab Economic Forum is a great concept that takes a fresh look at our existing ties while working to build new bridges. And during this time of great challenges – not only for the United States, but the world at large – nothing could be more important,” said George H. W. Bush, former U.S. President and honorary chair of the Forum. *Source: <http://www.usaeforum.org/index.asp>*

Cities in Transition: Asian Pacific Islander Americans

Representatives from the business, government, philanthropy, education, science, arts, social services, and entertainment sectors will all gather together at the Hilton Americas Hotel for the Cities in Transition national forum on Sept 21-23. The forum – a collaborative effort between the City of Houston, the Partners for Livable Communities, and the growing Asian Pacific Islander American (APIA) community in America – addresses the needs and challenges of the APIA community.

The 3-day discussion focuses on 4 fundamental areas including human empowerment, community development, housing and business, leadership and governance, and, culture and heritage. A series of intimate blueprint sessions in each of these areas and presentations from national advocates provides the foundation for creating viable actions and stronger APIA unity.

Source: <http://www.citiesintransition.org/>

Did You Know?

According to the Houston 2000 Census, there were over 10,000 Asian Pacific Islanders living in Houston in 2000, the numbers have multiplied since then!

Remarking Our World: The Friends of the World Foundation for AIDS Research and Prevention

By George Marshall-Worthington

To benefit the work of the Friends of the World Foundation for AIDS Research and Prevention, the Consulate General of France and the French-American Chamber of Commerce have come together for *A World of Friends Fighting AIDS*. This gala dinner and auction which is expected to draw more than 450 generous supporters of the fight against global AIDS and is schedule to be held on September 28 at the InterContinental Houston. Among the prestigious guests are His Serene Highness Prince Albert of Monaco and His Excellency Jean-David Levitte, ambassador of France to the United States.

The dinner promises to be one of the many high points in a week full of activities including a board meeting via telephone conference call linking Houston with Paris and Rome, a roundtable meeting with scientists at Baylor College of Medicine, as well as a luncheon where scientists will deliver the treatment research keynote address. For more information, please contact (713) 256-8965.

Letter from Jackie Chan



"This past April I traveled to several areas in Vietnam and saw with my own eyes the devastation caused by HIV/AIDS. It was heartbreaking. I saw children who had lost both parents to AIDS; entire families wiped out by the disease.

But amidst all this sadness, I also saw hope. I saw people who were devoted to caring for those with the disease.... These are the people who are making a difference. The Friends of the World Foundation for AIDS Research and Prevention has my full support.... In order to halt the spread of HIV/AIDS worldwide, we must work together."

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Jackie Chan, Artiste

Special Thanks

Article submitted by George Marshall-Worthington, executive director of the Friends of the World Foundation for AIDS Research and Prevention, and letter from Jackie Chan.

TurkishFest 2005

By Natalie M. Kassenyeva



Since 1991, the American Turkish Association of Houston has expanded and enriched its festival every year to make the each succeeding celebration the most successful Turkish Festival ever.

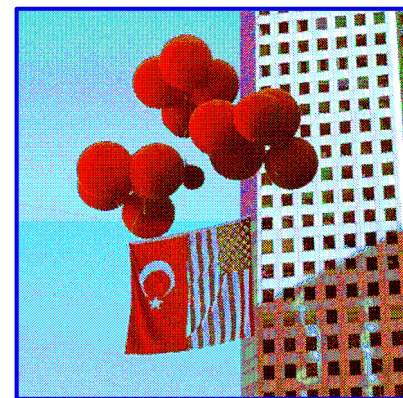
TurkishFest05 is scheduled for October 1 at Jones Plaza – Downtown Houston. Visitors will have a great opportunity to attend the festival filled with morning fresh Turkish coffee and fresh baked pastries. A full day of entertainment will

Did You Know?

From the days of the Ottoman Empire through the present, coffee has played an important role in Turkish lifestyle and culture. The serving and consumption of coffee has had a profound effect on betrothal and gender customs, political and social interaction, prayer, and hospitality customs throughout the centuries. Today, although many of the rituals are not prevalent, coffee has remained an integral part of Turkish culture. As the Turks say, "To drink one cup of coffee together guarantees forty years of friendship."

Source: <http://www.allaboutturkey.com/kahve.htm>

include live music in English and Turkish, interactive activities, booths and presentations for the famous "Ebru" (Paper Marbling - form of art particular to Turkey) workshops run by a specialist from Turkey to the "Sark Kosesi" corner with Turkish coffee and fortune reading as well as a children's corner and booths selling items related to the Turkish culture. Turkish festivals have always surprised the public with the variety of gourmet food and joy! natalienmk@yahoo.com



Special Thanks

Article submitted by Natalie M. Kassenyeva with the American Turkish Association of Houston.

Direct Flight Initiative Allows Greater Access to China

Long-awaited direct flight to allow greater access to China from Houston, Anthony Hall, CAO of the City of Houston Mayor's Office, along with Richard Vacar, director of the Houston Airport System, met with Liu Shaoyong, president and chairman of the China Southern Airlines, and his team of executives on Aug 30 to discuss the opportunities of Houston-China air service. Meeting also addressed the potential cooperative air service opportunities with the Continental Airlines connecting China and Latin America through Houston.

The two airlines are planning to sign a memorandum of understanding in Guangzhou in the near future and in early October, Genaro Peña, deputy assistant director of the Houston Airport System, will meet with China Southern Airlines representative to further discuss China Southern's opportunity to expand service to Houston from Beijing, Shanghai or Guangzhou.

Special Thanks

Article submitted by the Houston Airport System.

Did You Know?

China Southern Airlines currently uses a mixed fleet of 180 jet aircrafts and operates 556 domestic and international routes to 110 destinations, forming an extensive route network with Baiyun International Airport in Guangzhou. In 2002, China Southern Airlines carried more than 29 million passengers, ranking as the largest airlines in China for the 23rd consecutive year.

Source: <http://www.ameinfo.com/27990.html>

Sister City Spotlight – Baku

This month the International Newsletter will continue to showcase each one of Houston's 16 sister cities around the globe with a closer look at these distinctive locales. This month we feature Baku, the capital of Azerbaijan.

By Alma D. Maldonado

Houston established a sister city relationship with Baku, Azerbaijan, in 1976. Located on the western shore of the Caspian Sea, Baku is Azerbaijan's largest city with a population of about 3 million. The discovery of oil during the mid-nineteenth century turned this coastal city into a boomtown and made it the oldest site of oil production in the world. Baku produced half of the world's supply of oil at the turn of the century and is known as the birthplace of the modern oil industry.

Petroleum continues to be the foundation of Baku's economy and accounts for its strong ties to Houston. 6 Houston companies have subsidiaries in Azerbaijan. Houston's seaborne trade with Azerbaijan was valued at over \$68.6 million in 2004, and air cargo was valued at over \$34.6 million.



Map of Azerbaijan



City of Baku

In 2002, the Houston-Baku Sister City Association received a \$40,000 grant to support emergency preparedness exchange programs with counterparts in Baku as part of a grant from the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. The association partnered with Baylor College of Medicine to administer the program. The Baylor College of Medicine and the Sister City Association organized reciprocal visits of emergency preparedness delegations between Houston and Baku, which focused on information exchange, planning methodologies, tools and techniques, and the roles of emergency management officials in response to catastrophic events.

For more information about the association's upcoming activities and how to become involved, please contact the Houston International Protocol Alliance at (713) 227-3395.

Special Thanks

Article submitted by the Houston International Protocol Alliance.

Did You Know?

Baku is a major cultural and educational center, with a university and other institutions of higher education. The existence of petroleum has been known since the 8th century. Today, Baku ranks as one of the largest centers for the production of oil-industry equipment. Other industries are shipbuilding and repair and the manufacture of electrical machinery. Chemicals, cement, textiles, footwear, and foodstuffs are also produced.

Source: <http://www.baku.com/>

Meet the Consular Corps in Houston

Egypt

For September, we sit down with The Hon. Omar Elfarouk Hassan, Consul General of Egypt in Houston, and discuss how he, as one of the many diplomats here in Houston, sees the direction the city is heading.

By David Chang



Consul General Omar Elfarouk Hassan

Consul General Hassan has certainly seen the world evolve before his eyes during the past quarter-century from all four corners of the globe. With more than 30 years of experience in the Egyptian government and in the Egyptian diplomatic corps, Consul General Hassan has been stationed in 6 nations across four continents. His most recent posting (prior to coming to Houston in 2003) was in Russia as the secretary general of the Egyptian Technical Cooperation Fund in the Commonwealth of Independent States.

Although he (as he freely admits with a smile) is a relatively newcomer to Houston, having only been here for 2 years, Consul General Hassan very quickly began the interview by sharing his thoughts on the state of our city. "Houston is definitely changing for the better," he said. "The [METRO] Light Rail, and the perception of Downtown Houston, and the warmth of the people here all point to Houston moving in a positive direction. There is an energy and bustle here that very

much reminds me of my hometown of Cairo."

Of course, growth comes with its attendant challenges and headaches. To the Consul General, that challenge would be the traffic congestion. However, he wanted to frame his thoughts in context with the bigger picture: "When the Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak visited Houston in 2004, he was here for an entire week. That is unprecedented for President Mubarak to stay in any one place for so long, and I think that it speaks very well for Houston and the hospitality he received here. The President's visit was met by tremendous response



A felucca on the Nile River.

and support from the community and the business sector. It is indicative of Houston's great vitality, and the health of commerce and trade between Houston and Egypt, so in the larger context, I see traffic as a manageable issue for an international city that already has its other pieces already in place." Has Houston possibly become a new home for the Consul General to witness the global changes for the future? Laughing, Consul General Hassan affirms, "Oh, very much so. I could easily spend more time here. I really want to take this opportunity to thank the kind people here for their warm reception to me, and the international community at large. It is a most remarkable phenomenon."

Did You Know?

The Egyptian economy relies heavily on tourism, oil and gas. Among the Arab countries, Egypt's GDP is 2nd only to Saudi Arabia's. And, in the last 10 years, Egypt's exports have nearly tripled, almost doubling their GDP from 1995 to \$73.4 billion.

Source: U.S. Department of State

International Hub: Houston Airport System

By Juan M. Alanis



Terminal C at George Bush Intercontinental Airport

Widely renowned as one of the most successfully owned and operated public airport systems in the world, the Houston Airport System (HAS) is the 4th largest multi-airport system in the United States and the 6th

largest in the world. Comprised of 3 different airports – Ellington Field, William P. Hobby Airport and George Bush Intercontinental Airport – HAS is one of the primary assets of the energy capital of the world.

Each year the three-airport system contributes over \$20 billion to the local economy without taxing a single area resident. In the coming years that number is projected to increase. Last year alone, 44 million passengers traveled through HAS – by 2025 that number is expected to double to 80 million. Nonetheless, substantial growth has always been a part of the Houston Airport System's impressive history. In 1937, as Houston began its ascent to become the energy capital of the world, the city acquired the site of its first major airport, William P. Hobby Airport.

As Houston continued to grow, so did the Houston Airport System, by adding new airports – George Bush Intercontinental Airport in 1969, and Ellington Field in 1984 – and by expanding and tailoring services to fulfill a wide range of customer needs. Today that continues to be the mission of HAS: to provide a safe and dynamic air services network that fosters economic vitality for the transportation industry and the greater Houston region.

Did You Know?

HAS currently has cooperation agreements with China, Ethiopia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Ghana, Senegal, and Tanzania.

With that goal in mind, Houston Airport System Director Richard Vacar has set out to maintain and broaden the airport system's standing as one of the primary international gateways in the United States.



*Richard Vacar,
director of the Houston
Airport System.*

“With this wonderful facility to welcome the world business traveler, better and faster service is inevitable,” said Vacar. “When visitors are expedited through Federal Inspection Services, they will be more likely to want to come back to Houston and do business, come back for fun and leisure, or all of the above.”

Under Mayor Bill White's administration, a \$3.1 billion Capital Improvement Project was completed at HAS that, among other things, resulted in the construction of the largest International Arrivals Building in the country. With an offering of 181 destinations, the Houston Airport System's George Bush Intercontinental Airport (IAH) ranks second in the country for scheduled non-stop domestic and international services. Hobby Airport served over 8.2 million passengers in 2004 and Ellington Field is a joint use civil-military airport that supports the operations of the United States military, NASA and a variety of general aviation tenants.

In the first half of 2005, passenger traffic at HAS increased by 2 million, and IAH was recognized as the number one airport in the country for on-time performance. In the future, that growth will continue as the Houston Airport System continues adding more international services to its worldwide network.

Special Thanks

Article submitted by Juan M. Alanis, communication specialist supervisor of the Houston Airport System.

International Frontier – Don Wang

Every month we focus on a Houstonian who has made an indelible mark on our city through outstanding contributions and services to the growth of Houston as an international city.

By Dion Or



Don Wang

Don Wang has always been on the cutting edge of business and finance. As the founder of MetroBank, N.A. and one of the pioneers of the minority-owned financial service industry, Wang has brought status to the Houston banking scene.

Wang received his undergraduate degree from the Taiwan Chung Hsing University and his Masters from the Utah State University. Young, energetic and full of entrepreneurial spirit, Wang decided to come to America in 1979 and started his business in Houston – a city which at that time was suffering from massive corporate downsizing. “In the 1980s, everyone was giving up on Houston, but we stayed, we invested.” To Wang, a city in crisis is a city with choices and opportunity for growth. In 1987, Wang launched MetroBank, N.A. which today has 13 full-service banking locations throughout the greater Houston and Dallas metropolitan areas and ranks as one of the top independent banks in the cities.

With over 18 years of experience in the financial industry, Don Wang has learned that excellent customer service and recognizing the diversity of the market result in repeat business and trust-based relationships. This philosophy has built MetroBank, N.A.’s continued success over the years. “The foundation of our success truly has been in the ethnic markets, especially the Asian and Hispanic markets,

where we have strong ties and direct involvement with the communities,” said Wang. Like many other entrepreneurs, Wang has served on numerous boards and is committed to the community. He has previously served on the Greater Houston Partnership’s Board of Directors, boards of the American Leadership Forum, Harris County Hospital District, Houston Image Group, Childress Foundation, and the Houston Asia Chamber of Commerce. Currently, Wang is the chairman of the board of MentroBank, N.A., the chairman of the board of New Era Life Insurance, and the chairman of the board of Chinese Senior Estate – HUD Senior Housing Project.

Wang believes that these initiatives allow him to give back to the community and thus, introduce this land of opportunities to the city’s young people and to the “outsiders” who still consider Houston as a “cowboy town without trees.” “I try to get [businesspeople] from Taiwan to come to Houston for a visit, knowing that they will immediately fall in love with the city, get hooked, and want to do business here!” Wang strongly emphasized that Houston as a great city for newcomers and innovative young people. As a widely renowned financial service industry leader, Don Wang’s success has inspired people around the globe. – *Interviews by Monica M. Faridi*

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★★★★★
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**Next Submission Deadline:
September 20, 2005**

September - 2005 Event Calendar

Date	Time	Event	Venue/Contact
Sept 1	--	Mayor's Office: Delegation led by the vice mayor of Qingdao, China	Venue: -- Contact: Helen Chang 713-247-3595
Sept 1	7:30am	Houston Networking News: Rise-n-Shine Breakfast	Venue: Amazon Grill Contact: 281-778-6662
Sept 1	6:00pm-7:30pm	Houston World Affairs Council: Is Syria Next?	Venue: 1811 Briar Oaks Lane Contact: 713-522-7812
Sept 8	11:30am	Asia Houston Network: Luncheon Saluting Asian-American Elected Officials	Venue: Hyatt Regency Hotel Contact: 713-385-8123
Sept 8	6:00pm-8:00pm	Ambassador Kasit Piromya of Thailand: Thailand Thanks America Reception	Venue: Houston Baptist University Contact: 713-229-8733
Sept 8	6:00pm-7:30pm	Houston World Affairs Council: United Nations Reform, Opportunity and Challenge featuring Ambassador Thomas Pickering	Venue: The Westin Oaks Hotel Contact: 713-522-7811
Sept 9	8:00am-5:00pm	Houston Technology Center: HTC/Aegis Texas Ventures Pitch Day	Venue: HTC Contact: 713-457-5900
Sept 9	5:30pm-7:30pm	The Buckingham: A Wine and Hors 'oeuvres Reception	Venue: 8580 Woodway Contact: 713-782-7222
Sept 10	7:00am	Houston Airport System: Runway Race For Life	Venue: George Bush Intercontinental Airport Contact: 281-233-1500
Sept 10	11:00am-9:00pm	Ambassador Kasit Piromya: Thai Fest	Venue: Hermann Square Contact: Joe Tran 281-829-6508
Sept 10	6:30pm	Global Federation of Chinese Business Women in Southern USA: 20 th Annual Celebration Gala and World Congress	Venue: Marriott Hotel at Galleria Contact: 281-344-4331
Sept 11-13	--	Mayor's Office: Delegation led by the governor of Jinshan District, Shanghai	Venue: -- Contact: Helen Chang 713-247-3595
Sept 11	4:30pm-7:00pm	The Children's Assessment Center Foundation and The Houston Polo Club: Polo Italia & Risotto Festival	Venue: Houston Polo Club Contact: 713-986-3483
Sept 13	8:30am	Houston Technology Center: Textech Congress	Venue: Crown Plaza Hotel, Downtown Contact: 713-457-5900
Sept 13	11:30am-1:30pm	Houston World Affairs Council: The Great Energy Debate, do we have the resource to meet the demands of the future?	Venue: Hyatt Regency Hotel Contact: 713-522-7811
Sept 14	10:30am-11:00am	The Asian Chamber of Commerce: Minority Professional Services Initiative with Greater Houston Partnership	Venue: Westin Galleria Hotel Contact: 713-782-7222

Sept 14	11:30am-1:15pm	Asian Chamber of Commerce: A Successful Example of A Certified Asian Business Which Receives Many Corporate Contacts	Venue: Contact:	Westin Galleria Hotel 713-782-7222
Sept 14-16	--	American Middle East Economic Affairs Committee & Bilateral US-Arab Chamber of Commerce: US-Arab Economic Forum	Venue: Contact:	Hilton Americas - Houston 281-233-1829
Sept 15	6:00pm-9:00pm	Success in the City: The Chrysalis Award	Venue: Contact:	Czech Cultural Center 281-391-2623
Sept 16	--	Society for the Performing Arts: Ravi Shankar's Festival of India with Anoushka Shankar	Venue: Contact:	Jones Hall 713-632-8114
Sept 17	7:30am	Life Change Institute for Men, Inc & Life Change Institute for Women, Inc.: 2nd Annual Life Change Institute 5K Family Fun Run/Walk	Venue: Contact:	-- 281-875-4448
Sept 19	7:30am-9:00am	Greater Houston Partnership: The Quality of Life Coalition Honors Congressman Ted Poe	Venue: Contact:	Hyatt Regency 713-844-3621
Sept 19-20	8:30am-4:30pm	Mapping Texas Communities: GIS and Community Analysis Workshop	Venue: Contact:	11200 Richmond Ave. Suite 100 877-241-6576
Sept 20-23	--	Greater Houston Partnership: 36th General Assembly of the World Trade Centers Association	Venue: Contact:	Shanghai 713-844-3637
Sept 20	8:00am-3:00pm	Houston Technology Center: 2005 Silver Fox Advisor' Business Growth Summit	Venue: Contact:	Houston Community College System Administration Building 713-457-5900
Sept 21-23	--	City of Houston: Houston's National Asian Pacific Islander Americans Conference	Venue: Contact:	Hilton Americas Hotel 713-247-2013
Sept 21	7:30am-9:00am	Houston Hispanic Chamber of Commerce: Networking Breakfast & Mini-Trade Fair	Venue: Contact:	HESS Club 713-644-7070
Sept 21	11:00am-5:00pm	Asian American Advertising Federation: U.S. Asian Market Conference	Venue: Contact:	Ocean Palace Restaurant Troy Wong 512-323-6454
Sept 22	6:00pm-8:30pm	The Houston Area Council of the American Business Women's Association: Torch Lighter Awards	Venue: Contact:	Sheraton Brookhollow 832-203-1934
Sept 22	6:00pm-7:30pm	Houston World Affairs Council: Reporting the Middle East – A Panel Discussion of Journalists	Venue: Contact:	The Junior League 713-522-7811
Sept 22	6:30pm	Memorial Hermann Foundation: In the Pink of Health Gala	Venue: Contact:	Hotel Icon 713-704-4264
Sept 23	7:00am-6:00pm	Foundation Performance Association: Foundations on Expansive Soils Seminar	Venue: Contact:	Sheraton North Houston 713-468-8100
Sept 23	7:30am-9:00am	Greater Houston Partnership: Business Issues Advisory Committee hosts Barry T. Smitherman, commissioner of the Public Utility Commission of Texas	Venue: Contact:	Hyatt Regency 713-844-3600

Sept 23	7:30pm	Asia Society Texas: Joint Security Area (J.S.A.)	Venue:	Museum of Fine Arts
			Contact:	713-639-7515
Sept 24	7:00pm	Chinese Civic Center: 2005 China National Day Celebration Gala	Venue:	Marriott Hotel-Sugarland
			Contact:	713-844-1499
Sept 24	7:30pm	Indo-American Charity Foundation: Bollywood Glamour Gala	Venue:	Hilton Americas
			Contact:	713-256-4517
Sept 25	Noon	Vietnamese Navy's Veteran Association of Houston: Navy Day	Venue:	7242 Boone St.
			Contact:	713-970-7368
Sept 26	11:30am	French Chamber of Commerce: The US and Europe – A Transatlantic Drift?	Venue:	The Westin Galleria Hotel
			Contact:	713-960-0575
Sept 27	9:00am-12:00pm	UH International Trade Center: Shipping and Documentation	Venue:	2302 Fannin, Suite 200
			Contact:	http://sbdc.uh.edu/calendar/class_info.aspx?class=02004&part=1&en=0
Sept 28	6:30pm-9:30pm	Friends of the World Foundation for AIDS Research and Prevention Gala	Venue:	InterContinental Houston
			Contact:	713-256-8965
Sept 29	11:30am-1:30pm	Greater Houston Partnership: Imagine. Houston: Energized with Technology Luncheon	Venue:	InterContinental Houston
			Contact:	713-844-3637
Sept 29	Noon-1:00pm	Houston International Protocol Alliance: Learn at Lunch - Canada	Venue:	Visitor Center Theater
			Contact:	Houston International Protocol Alliance 713-227-3395
Sept 29	6:00pm-7:30pm	Houston World Affairs Council: Eyewitness Gaza, After the Disengagement, What's Next?	Venue:	The Junior League
			Contact:	713-522-7811
Sept 29	7:30pm	Asia Society Texas: Foreign Babes in Beijing	Venue:	Borders River Oaks
			Contact:	713-439-0265
Sept 30	8:30am	Houston Technology Center: 3 rd Annual Energy Technology Venture Forum	Venue:	Rice University
			Contact:	tvforum@rice.edu 713-348-3443

We have one simple goal: to promote Houston as a renowned international city.

The contents are intended for general information purposes only.